

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated January 25, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the current application. Applicant amends claims 1 and 6 to recite more clearly features of the invention that were inherent in the original claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,392,724 to An et al. (hereinafter "An"). Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over An in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,166,788 to Ha et al. (hereinafter "Ha").

The rejection of claims 1-5 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-5 are allowable over the cited references in that independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one shaft member installed at the main frame to fix the optical sheets; and a panel guide, engaged in the shaft member, for surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame, wherein the shaft member has a columnar shape." None of the cited references including An and Ha, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from An in that in An the shaft 170 does not fix the optical sheets 3, nor does it have the "columnar shape" required by claim 1. For example, element 170 of Figure 4 of An illustrates a structure that is not columnar in shape. Claims 2-5, as well as new claims 7-11, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

Claim 6 is allowable over the cited references in that it recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one shaft connected to said main frame; optical sheets included in the backlight assembly having holes therein configured to affix to the shaft; and a panel guide, engaged in the shaft, for surrounding the backlight assembly and the main frame, wherein the shaft member has a columnar shape." None of the cited references including An and Ha, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from An in that in An the shaft 170 does not fix the optical sheets 3, nor does it have the "columnar shape" required by claim 1. For example, element 170 of Figure 4 of An illustrates a structure that is not columnar in shape. Claims 2-5, as well as new claims 7-11, are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

Ha does not supply the deficiencies in An with respect to claims 1 and 6.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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